

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

This guidance relates to Wisconsin's participation in the language proficiency assessment field test for English Learners with the [most significant cognitive disabilities](#).



Timeline

The Alternate ACCESS Field Test is a one-time, paper-based test that you will give *in addition to* the Alternate ACCESS test that you administer each year.

Field Testing Timeline	
Initial Materials Shipped to districts	February 7, 2023
Field Testing Window	February 14 - April 17, 2023
Additional Materials Deadline	April 10, 2023
Materials Return Deadline	April 19, 2023

Necessity of the Field Test

In order to administer a new test, new test items must be administered to current students to determine whether or not they are accurate and reliable measures of student proficiency. Field testing will allow us to validate the test and screener items for next year, and gain experience and comfort administering the test before it counts for students.

Training and Administration for Alt ACCESS and the Field Test

Field test training is included in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring training course in the WIDA Secure Portal. The added training content pertaining to the field test should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Staff administering the current Alternate ACCESS are presumed to be the ones who will administer the field test.

Student Participation

All students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K–12 who are eligible to take Alternate ACCESS must participate in the field test. Students will not get test scores from the field test, as the items are not finalized. However, districts administering the test will receive a complementary copy of the Alternate English Language Development standards to support language instruction.

A student should NOT be field tested unless it is clearly identified in the student's IEP that the student participates in alternate assessments. It is important to ensure they are appropriately identified as students with the most significant cognitive disability using Wisconsin's criteria linked above. Kindergarten students are included in the field test, but they must be identified as eligible for inclusion in the 1% of students with the most significant disabilities.

Preparing for the Field Test

WIDA will ship all materials on February 7th. The materials will be sent to the same location as the ACCESS materials and will arrive in the typical yellow DRC box with an image of Candoo, the field test dog. The materials you receive will be based on the number of students who took Alternate ACCESS in the 2021-22 school year. For sites with kindergarten students, DRC will estimate how many K-2 booklets you will need to account for these students. Additional field test materials will be available to be ordered through a Google form, not the WIDA AMS. A family flier (in 17 different languages) is available for download in the Course Resources section of the Alt-ACCESS training.

While working out schedules for the annual assessments, please take into consideration all eligible students who will be included in the field test, (including Kindergarten, as applicable).

SCHEDULING

The field test will be similar in length to Alternate ACCESS. Each of the four domain tests for Alternate ACCESS (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) can take up to 20 minutes to administer, for a total test time of 80 minutes, but could be much shorter.

During the Field Test

During the field test, it is still imperative to maintain the same level of confidentiality and testing security (i.e, setting up the room, storage of testing materials, etc.) as any other assessment. Review, inventory and prepare the test materials that came in your field test box, ensuring you have enough materials to test all students who are eligible for Alternate ACCESS including students who are in kindergarten. The same person who orders additional materials for ACCESS should order any additional materials needed for the field test. While WIDA will close the field test window on April 17, we encourage districts to complete testing by March 17, to avoid overlapping with the DLM test window, which tests the same population of students.

After the Field Test

Materials should be returned immediately upon completion of field testing. Return of materials will follow the same process as regular ACCESS materials, and DRC will ship return instructions and labels as normal. The deadline for returning materials to DRC is April 19, 2023.

Getting Additional Information

For more information about the field test, [please visit the WIDA website](#) or contacts below:

- [WIDA Client Services Center \(CSC\)](#) if you have general questions about the field test.
- [Data Recognition Corporation \(DRC\) Customer Service](#) if you have questions about field test materials, e.g., ordering additional materials, returning materials.
- [DPI](#) if you have questions about administering the field test.

